

ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT



Town of  
**EASTON**  
New Hampshire

Year Ending December 31, 2020

## Being Neighborly

It's annual meeting time again – time to look back and also plan for the year to come. Usually we look only through the lens of dollars – how much money allotted for this, what might be needed in future years, etc. But 2020 has not been a normal year, and in lieu of dedicating this annual report to an individual, we'd like to celebrate and acknowledge all the residents of Easton for pulling together as a community in such trying times.

In March our worlds kind of shut down. There was a lot of loss, all at once, mixed in with anxiety about our own safety and that of our families.

Amidst all this loss, and shock, as we settled into our new normal, I began to look around and see powerful examples of community members taking care of each other. I like to think of it as “being neighborly” (the name of a chapter in Louisa May Alcott's classic *Little Women*), and it manifested itself in many ways.

I found a bottle of maple syrup in our mailbox, “Stay Safe!” written on it, from neighbors with a sugarhouse down the road.

We gathered at the driveway of a high school senior, congratulations signs waving and cowbells ringing as Profile staff drove by to announce her selection as valedictorian.

I watched neighbors and friends drive by our house on my son's birthday, honking and hanging out their car windows with signs and balloons.

We baked a loaf of bread for the family down the road, welcoming home their new baby.

I'm sure almost everyone in town could add to this list. Sometimes we took care of others. Sometimes others took care of us. But we were there for each other this past year, and we should be proud of that.

A few days before Christmas, I found a note tucked under my door. “Saturday, meet at the end of our driveway around 5:30! Masks required!” We did, and walked up the road a bit, a gaggle of kids and parents and friends from down the street. There was a bonfire. Someone had purchased light up necklaces for the kids; someone else had wheeled their popcorn machine to the end of their driveway. We sang a few carols and warmed up by the fire and then headed home.

It was maybe my favorite moment of the holiday season.

Kudos to taking care of each other, and thanks for being a part of the strong Easton community.

– Amy L. McKeever

# ANNUAL REPORT

## of the Town Officers

### for the year ending December 31, 2020

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All Agency Reports Are On File In The Selectmen's Office

*Front cover photo courtesy of Mary Williams*

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## TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

### Board of Selectmen

Toni Woodruff (2021)  
Zhenye (Zak) Mei (2022)  
Robert Thibault (2023)

### Treasurer

Darrel Gearhart (2021)

### Moderator

Brent Detamore (2022)

### Lafayette School Board

Megan Detamore (2023)  
Election at Lafayette Annual Mtg.

### Cemetery Trustees

Denys Draper (2022)  
Kristina Pastoriza (2021)  
Richard Larcom (2023)

### Town Clerk

Peggy King (2021)

### Tax Collector

Lisa Cutler (2021)

### Trustees of the Trust Funds

Denys Draper (2023)  
John Hynes (2021)  
Claire Mei (2022)

### Supervisors of the Checklist

Ed O'Brien (2022)  
Lisa Cutler (2021)  
Tambra Gearhart (2026)

### Planning Board

Ned Cutler (2022)	Zhenye (Zak) Mei (Ex Officio)
Laura Sabre (2022)	Robert Thibault (Ex-Officio Alternate)
Anita Craven (2023)	Bob Lamanna (Alternate - 2022)
John Bracken (2023)	Tom Boucher (Alternate - 2023)

## —————APPOINTED OFFICIALS & BOARD MEMBERS —————

<b>Fire Chief:</b> Darrel Gearhart	<b>Emergency Manager:</b> Edward Cutler
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<b>Health Officer:</b> Inga Johnson	<b>Welfare Officer:</b> Zhenye (Zak) Mei
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<b>Zoning Board of Adjustment:</b>	<b>Building Inspector:</b> Allan Clark
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Ellen Pritham (2021)	<b>Road Agent:</b> Presby Construction Co.
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Kris Pastoriza (2021)	
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John Hynes (2023)	
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Fred Moody (2022)	<b>Recreation Committee:</b> Mike McKeever (2022)
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Wren Miller (2022)	Kent Butterfield (2023)
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Tom Boucher (Alternate) (2023)	
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<b>Deputy Town Clerk:</b>	Toni Woodruff
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<b>Assistant Town Clerk:</b>	Bob Thibault
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**Animal Control Officer:** Richard Larcom

### Conservation Commission

Inga Johnson - Chair (2023)	Shawn Graham (2022)
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Kathy Stringham (Alternate 2022)	Andrew Schatz (2021)
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Steve Sabre (2021)	
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## **EASTON SELECT BOARD**

Quite an unexpected year! Following Town Meeting, 2020 the COVID 19 lockdown began. Our newly elected Town Clerk, Peggy King, began her tenure with the Town Clerk's Office closed for business. Peggy and the Select Board devised a procedure to accept vehicle registrations by mail and drop off. With directions on our Town website, this method worked well. By June, the office was reopened with all COVID 19 precautions and protocols in place.

The Select Board continued to meet in person with masks and social distancing mandatory. A call-in meeting system was developed for those who did not feel comfortable attending meetings in person. A rule was passed mandating mask wearing for anyone entering the Town Hall. Postcards were sent to all residents offering assistance and a list of volunteers willing to help out was compiled. Thanks to Ned Cutler, Easton's Emergency Management Director, the most up-to-date information regarding the virus was continually posted on the Town website. Both the Primary and General elections were conducted successfully and safely with a combination of absentee and in-person voting. We did, however, miss the delicious Election Day meals prepared by the Kinsman Valley Club.

Throughout the year, the Board addressed several building applications and reports of timber harvesting and many hours were spent on the eventual permitting of the AT&T cell tower extension on Lost River Road. The fire damage from the Town Hall fire was repaired and the fire house driveway was completely blacktopped along with the pedestrian entrances to the Town Hall. Currently the SB is considering the possibility of re-siding the Town Hall while researching the best and most cost-effective method. The SB is ever mindful of the Town's funds. We have been able to reduce the Town operating budget for the fourth year in a row, which helps reduce the impact of increases in school and county costs.

An important initiative began in the fall; endeavoring to bring high speed internet to Easton. This project is headed by the Select Board who has assembled a committee of interested and knowledgeable residents. The SB is also working with members of the surrounding communities to reach out to possible providers. To date Ben Ryan designed a survey which was distributed through email and noticed by hard copy to all Easton property owners. This elicited 159 responses with 89% indicating they would likely subscribe to fiber service at a fair price. Requests for Proposal were then sent out to various telecommunications providers. The next step is to analyze the proposals to determine which firm would best suit and service the Town. Listen for more discussion at Town Meeting!

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathy Ryan, who started as the SB Secretary a few years ago and now serves tirelessly as the Secretary for the SB, PB, and ZBA. Kathy is a great asset to all three Boards, always keeping appropriate records and providing rational advice.

Town Meeting day will look a bit different this year. We will, once again, provide the choice of voting by absentee or in person on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 3-6pm. However, our

Deliberative Session, in accordance with an Executive Order from the Governor, will be postponed until June with the hopes of more voters being able to attend in person. We will announce the day and time by March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Until then, stay safe, stay well and enjoy the peace and beauty offered by our Town.

In closing, we would like to offer special thanks to Amy McKeever, who so aptly captured Easton's spirit in her remembrance of the past year in "Being Neighborly", and Mary Williams for her cover photo. The robin promises spring and renewal. We are certainly looking forward to both. In addition to Amy and Mary we would like to acknowledge all our "Eastonites" whose positive attitudes helped to lift each other during this unexpected year.

Respectfully,  
Zhenye "Zak" Mei, Bob Thibault, Toni Woodruff

## TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 10, 2020

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified and warned of the Annual Town Meeting to be held at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. Polls will open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Articles 1-5. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

**Town of Easton Moderator, Brent Detamore, opened the meeting at 7 pm.**

- Zak Mei presented a certificate of appreciation to Jim Collier, recognizing his 23 years of service as Moderator for the Town of Easton.
- Inga Johnson, Health Officer for the Town, spoke about the corona virus situation and basic prevention methods.
- Brent Detamore reviewed the procedures for the meeting.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 1. Elect All Officers.** To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot. (Ballot Vote)

Brent Detamore announced the following results of the Ballot Vote with 62 residents voting:

**Selectman**

Robert Thibault	61
Kris Pastoriza	1

**Town Clerk**

Peggy King	60
Blank	2

**Tax Collector**

Denys Draper	14
William German	47
Blank	1

**Treasurer**

Darrel Gearhart	62
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**Supervisor of the Checklist**

Tambra Gearhart	62
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**Moderator**

Brent Detamore	62
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**Planning Board**

Anita Craven	57
Sonia German	51
Dave Plante	1
Steve Whitcomb	1
Kris Pastoriza	1

**Trustee of the Trust Funds**

Denys Draper	51
Blank	4
Claire Mei	1
Bob Loblaw	1
Trish O'Brien	1
Ned Cutler	1
Bob Thibault	1
Steve Whitcomb	1
Kate Masters	1

**Cemetery Trustee**

Richard Larcom	59
Blank	2
Frank Woodruff	1

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:**

Are you in favor of adopting this amendment, proposed by the Planning Board, that would make several administrative-type changes to the Easton Zoning Ordinance which would reorganize and renumber provisions in the Ordinance, make formatting and definition updates, clarify references and/or make other non-substantive clarifications? This includes all changes other than those in Section 604:E, 604:J, 606, and 809. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

Yes 53  
No 7  
Blank 2  
Article 2 passes

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:**

Are you in favor of adopting this amendment, proposed by the Planning Board, that modifies the wording in the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District of the Easton Zoning Ordinance to clarify how wetland boundaries are determined (Sec 604:E) and how Conditional Use Permits are administered (604:J)? (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article.) (Ballot vote)

Yes 50  
No 9  
Blank 3  
Article 3 passes

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:**

Are you in favor of adopting this amendment, proposed by the Planning Board, that makes minor revisions to Section 606, Steep Slopes, Hillside and Ridgeline Development Overlay District of the Easton Zoning Ordinance for better consistency and more realistic administration and enforcement? (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

Yes 49  
No 10  
Blank 3  
Article 4 passes

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Easton Zoning Ordinance as follows:**



Are you in favor of adopting this amendment, proposed by the Planning Board, to modify wording of the Easton Zoning Ordinance Sec 809 telecommunications Facilities so that the required tower inspection and condition assessment follow the TIA/EIA industry standard? The major change increases the interval between written reports to the Town from quarterly to three to five years and after significant weather events. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of the Article) (Ballot vote)

Yes 44  
No 15  
Blank 3  
Article 5 passes

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 6 Town Operating Budget:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$253,372 for General Town operation as follows:

Executive	\$ 14,700.00
Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Stats	12,000.00
Financial Administration	15,000.00
Revaluation of Individual Properties	6,000.00
Legal Expenses	20,000.00
Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes	2,000.00
Planning & Zoning	4,500.00
Government Buildings	12,800.00
Cemetery	2,100.00
Insurance	2,855.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	1,620.00
General Government – Contingency	2,500.00
Police Department	0.00
Ambulances	11,500.00
Fire Department	19,800.00
Building Inspections	1,500.00
Emergency Management – Forest Fire	151.00
Public Safety – Other (Including Communications)	1,500.00
Highway and Streets	60,000.00
Sanitation – Solid Waste	28,812.00
Animal & Pest Control	300.00
Welfare Assistance	2,000.00
Parks and Recreation	20,334.00
Library	0.00
Patriotic Purposes	100.00
Conservation Commission	1,200.00
Construction Bonds – Principal	7,500.00
Construction Bonds – Interest	<u>2,600.00</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$253,372.00

Darrel Gearhart made the motion to accept the budget as read in its entirety. Steve Sabre seconded. Zak Mei made a motion to move the Article as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

Passed on a voice vote with 2 Nays.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 7. Budget for Health Agencies & Hospitals.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,011 for Health Agencies & Hospitals as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services	\$ 500.00
North Country Home Health & Hospice	800.00
CASA	500.00
White Mountain Mental Health	<u>211.00</u>
Total Health Agencies & Hospitals	\$2,011.00

Bob Thibault made a motion to move the Article as read. Toni Woodruff seconded. Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 8. Budget for Other Welfare.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,833 for Other Welfare as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

American Red Cross	\$ 100.00
Center for New Beginnings	250.00
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	200.00
Tri-County CAP Energy Service Program	2,150.00
Tri-County CAP Burch House	<u>133.00</u>
Total Other Welfare	\$2,833.00

Toni Woodruff moved to vote on Article 8 as read. Zak Mei seconded. Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 9. Budget for Other Culture & Recreation.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Other Culture & Recreation: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

North Country Boys & Girls Club	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total Other Culture & Recreation	\$1,000.00

Zak Mei made a motion to move the Article as read. Bob Thibault seconded. Passed on a voice vote with 1 Nay.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 10. Other Animal & Pest Control.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for Above the Notch Animal Rescue; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

- Inga Johnson asked what the money would be used for. Zak Mei responded that is was a request for donation by the agency.

Bob Thibault made a motion to move the Article as read. Toni Woodruff seconded. Passed on a voice vote with 1 Nay.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 11. Fee for Franconia Library.** To see if the Town will vote to accept a special discounted patron rate of \$10 per Easton resident at the Abbie Greenleaf Library in Franconia, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for payment to such library for this purpose; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Toni Woodruff made a motion to move Article 11 as read. Zak Mei seconded:

- Denys Draper asked about the purpose of the \$500.
- Brent Detamore responded that it was a historical gift to the library which would allow Easton residents to use the Franconia Library at a discounted rate. Select Board voiced agreement.

Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator**

**ARTICLE 12. Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Equipment Reserve Fund.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Equipment Reserve Fund (established in March 1997); of this amount \$5,000 is to be raised from general taxation with the remaining balance of \$5,000 to come from the December 31, 2019 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Zak Mei made a motion to move the Article as read. Bob Thibault seconded. Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 13. Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Bob Thibault made a motion to move Article 13 as read. Toni Woodruff seconded. Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 14. Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Toni Woodruff made a motion to move Article 14 as reads. Zak Mei seconded. Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 15. Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Zak Mei made a motion to move the Article as read. Bob Thibault seconded. Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 16. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Bob Thibault made the motion to move Article 16 as read. Toni Woodruff seconded. Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 17. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Toni Woodruff made a motion to move Article 17 as read. Zak Mei seconded.

- Steve Sabre asked how much was currently in the fund.
- Brent Detamore directed him to page 31 of the annual report for the current balance.
- Denys Draper questioned the Easton Fire Chief, Darrel Gearhart, whether this was an adequate amount.
- Darrel Gearhart responded that the amount is adequate at this time.
- Zak Mei responded that it is the SB's plan to add small amounts to this fund each year to avoid placing an undue burden on the taxpayers and that hopefully there is a low probability of needing it.
- Ned Cutler noted that a fire on federal land is 100% paid through federal funding, a fire on state land would be state 50%, town 50% and a fire on town land would be paid in full by the town. He noted other costs which could be passed to the town in the event of a major fire.

Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 18. Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,327 to add to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 2019); of this amount the entirety is to come from the December 31, 2019 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant

Article.) (Majority vote required)

Zak Mei made a motion to move the Article as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

- Several residents questioned this Article.
- Zak Mei explained that Transfer Station funds were returned to the Town in 2019.
- Howard Pritham asked what the money is for.
- Zak Mei responded that this money was returned to Easton when Franconia dissolved the Capital Reserve Fund Franconia had for the Transfer Station and is being used to establish a new fund for future Transfer Station expenditures, a portion which Easton will be responsible for paying.
- Brent Detamore asked how the Easton's share of the Transfer Station's expenses is determined.
- SB responded that it is according to the population of the Town.

Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 19. Discontinue the Emergency Lane Expendable Trust Fund.** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Emergency Lane Expendable Trust Fund created in 2015. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required)

Bob Thibault made a motion to move Article 19 as read. Toni Woodfuff seconded.

- Anita Craven moved to amend the Article to transfer the discontinued trust funds into the Town Roads maintenance Expendable Trust Fund instead of the general fund. Denys Draper seconded the motion which was withdrawn by Anita Craven following discussion and clarification by Zak Mei that the funds must first be moved into the general fund before they can be dispersed elsewhere.
- Ed O'Brien noted the upcoming increase in school payments in future tax bills and the need to utilize unused reserve funds to offset the tax increase.
- Bob Thibault noted that the SB has worked hard to keep the Town's budget low to help mediate the increased expenses from the schools.
- Shawn Graham asked why was this fund established in the first place? Bob Thibault responded that the center portion of Paine Road had been designated as an emergency lane and these funds were targeted for that purpose. Paine Road is no longer designated an emergency lane.
- Ned Cutler inquired about Reel Brook Road. SB responded that the property owners on that road had agreed to assume responsibility for its maintenance.

Passed on a voice vote with 1 Nay.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 20. Discontinue the Northern Pass Legal Fund Expendable Trust Fund.** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Northern Pass Legal Fund Expendable Trust Fund created in 2012. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal,

are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Toni Woodruff made a motion to move the Article as read. Zak Mei seconded.

- Trish O'Brien asked how much money was in the fund.
- Toni Woodruff responded \$14,201.

Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 21. Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to add to the Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2019. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article) (Majority vote required)

Zak Mei made a motion to move Article 21 as read. Bob Thibault seconded.

- Zak Mei noted errors in the budget revenue as printed in the Annual Report and noted that the amount of tax revenue to be raised will decrease.

Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 22. Modify the Veterans Credit.** Shall the Town modify the Veterans Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II from its current tax credit of \$250 per year to \$350 per year? (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article) (Majority vote required)

Bob Thibault made the motion to move the Article as read. Toni Woodruff seconded. Passed with a unanimous vote.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 23. PETITIONED – Resolution for Fair Redistricting.** By petition of 10 or more eligible voters of the Town of Easton to see if the Town will urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, will do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. That in order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular political parties or candidates. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Selectmen to the Town of Easton's state legislators and to the Governor of New Hampshire informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

Toni Woodruff made the motion to move Article 23 as read. Zak Mei seconded. Passed on a voice vote with 1 Nay.

- Bob Craven requested that this vote be forwarded to the State.
- Sue Ford responded that a letter will be sent.

**Read by the Moderator:**

**ARTICLE 24. To act upon any other business that may legally come before the Meeting.**

- Bob Thibault noted that Matt Koehler is stepping down as Easton's representative to the Recreation Commission and asked for volunteers.
- Trish O'Brien questioned whether the Town has publically thanked Sue Schibanoff for her work on the Northern Pass issue? SB responded that yes, her efforts were recognized by the Town and other local organizations.
- John Hynes offered thanks on behalf of the Town to the Select Board for their hard work, noting the patient, and fair way they have dealt with the public and each other.

Bob Thibault made a motion to dissolve Town Meeting at 8 pm. Brent Detamore seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Passed.

## BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE	Estimated 2020	Actual 2020	Estimated 2021
Taxes:			
3121 Land Use Change Taxes	\$ -	\$ 9,890.00	\$ -
3185 Yield Taxes	-	12,023.00	11,000.00
3186 Payment in Lieu of Taxes	32,000.00	37,276.00	33,500.00
3190 Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	1,000.00	3,956.00	1,500.00
Licenses, Permits, & Fees:			
3220 Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	45,000.00	75,480.00	50,000.00
3230 Building Permits	1,500.00	4,288.00	1,500.00
3290 Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	200.00	1,909.00	200.00
3311-3319 From Federal Government	-	7,275.00	-
From State:			
3351 Shared Revenues	-	1,658.00	-
3352 Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution	13,732.00	13,767.00	13,732.00
3353 Highway Block Grant	8,807.00	8,810.00	8,807.00
3359 Other State Revenue	-	300.00	-
3379 From Other Governments	-	275.00	100.00
Charges For Services:			
3401-3406 Income from Departments	500.00	75.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
3501 Sale of Municipal Property	-	1,400.00	-
3502 Interest on Investments	300.00	616.00	300.00
3503 Other Miscellaneous Revenue	-	1,088.00	-
Interfund Operating Transfer In:			
3915 From Capital Reserve Fund	-	-	-
3916 From Trust & Fiduciary Fund	-	21,170.00	-
Other Financing Sources:			
3934 Proceeds from Long Term Bonds			
Amount Voted From Fund Balance	31,327.00	31,327.00	30,500.00
Estimated Fund Balance To Reduce Taxes	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Estimated Revenue & Credits	\$134,366.00	\$232,583.00	\$152,139.00



## BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – EXPENDITURES

PURPOSES OF APPROPRIATIONS	Estimated 2020	Actual 2020	Proposed 2021
General Government:			
4130-4139 Executive	\$ 14,700.00	\$ 13,837.00	\$ 14,700.00
4140-4149 Election, Reg., & Vital Statistics	12,000.00	12,969.00	12,000.00
4150-4151 Financial Administration	15,000.00	13,515.00	15,000.00
4152 Revaluation of Property	6,000.00	6,062.00	6,000.00
4153 Legal Expenses	20,000.00	6,029.00	10,000.00
4155-4159 Personnel Administration	2,000.00	2,009.00	2,000.00
4191-4193 Planning & Zoning	4,500.00	3,150.00	7,000.00
4194 General Government Buildings	12,800.00	14,268.00	13,700.00
4195 Cemeteries	2,100.00	1,770.00	2,100.00
4196 Insurance	2,855.00	2,853.00	2,981.00
4197 Advertising & Regional Association	1,620.00	1,648.00	1,620.00
4199 Other General Government	2,500.00	200.00	2,500.00
Public Safety:			
4210-4214 Police	-	-	-
4215-4219 Ambulance	11,500.00	11,019.00	11,500.00
4220-4229 Fire	19,800.00	41,640.00	21,050.00
4240-4249 Building Inspections	1,500.00	4,669.00	1,500.00
4290-4298 Emergency Management	151.00	613.00	151.00
4299 Other (including communications)	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Highways and Streets:			
4312 Highways & Streets	60,000.00	48,863.00	55,000.00
Sanitation:			
4321 Administration	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4323 Solid Waste Collection	-	-	-
4324 Solid Waste Disposal	27,812.00	20,501.00	29,208.00
Health:			
4414 Pest Control	300.00	-	300.00
4415-4419 Health Agencies & Hosp. & Other	-	-	-
Welfare:			
4442 Welfare Direct Assistance	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
4449 Other Welfare and Donations	-	-	-
Culture and Recreation:			
4520-4529 Parks & Recreation	20,334.00	17,983.00	18,475.00
4550-4559 Library	-	-	-
4583 Patriotic Purposes	100.00	-	100.00
4589 Other Culture & Recreation	-	-	-
Conservation:			
4619 Other Conservation	1,200.00	400.00	1,200.00

Debt Service:

4711	Principal-Long Term Bonds & Notes	7,500.00	8,254.00	7,500.00
4721	Interest-Long Term Bonds & Notes	2,600.00	2,448.00	2,600.00

Capital Outlay:

4909	Other Capital Outlay	-	-	-
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OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL		\$ 253,372.00	\$237,198.00	\$242,685.00
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**SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES**

4915	To Capital Reserve Fund	\$21,327.00	\$41,217.00	\$11,000.00
4916	To Exp. Trust Fund	36,000.00	26,000.00	36,000.00
4902	Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	-	-	-

Special Articles Recommended		\$57,327.00	\$67,217.00	\$47,000.00
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**INDIVIDUAL WARRANT ARTICLES**

4415-4419	Health Agencies, Hospital & Other	\$2,011.00	\$ 211.00	\$2,011.00
4449	Other Welfare & Donations	2,833.00	450.00	2,833.00
4449	Other Welfare & Donations	-	-	-
4414	Animal Control	500.00	500.00	-
4550-4559	Library	500.00	-	500.00
4589	Other Culture & Recreation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4215-4219	Ambulance	-	500.00	-
4191	Master Plan Update	-	-	-

Special Articles Recommended		\$6,844.00	\$2,661.00	\$6,344.00
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**BUDGET SUMMARY**

	Prior Year <u>Budget</u>	Prior Year <u>Actual</u>	Ensuing Year <u>Budget</u>
Operating Budget Recommended	\$253,372.00	\$237,198.00	\$242,685.00
Special Warrant Articles Recommended	57,327.00	67,217.00	47,000.00
Individual Warrant Articles Recommended	6,844.00	2,661.00	6,344.00
Total Appropriations Recommended	317,543.00	307,077.00	296,029.00
Less: Estimated Revenues & Credits	103,039.00	201,256.00	121,639.00
Less: Fund Balance Use	31,327.00	31,327.00	30,500.00
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised	\$183,177.00	\$74,494.00	\$143,890.00

## PROFIT & LOSS

2020

### Ordinary Income/Expense

#### Income

3110-1	Property Tax Revenue	\$ 890,357.46
3121-0	Land Use Change Tax	9,890.00
3185-0	Timber Taxes	12,022.56
3186-0	Payments in Lieu of Taxes	37,276.00
3190-0	Penalties & Interest	3,955.77
3220-0	Motor Vehicle Permits & Titles	75,480.00
3230-0	Building Permits	4,282.60
3290-0	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	1,914.27
3319	Federal Grants	7,275.01
3351-0	Shared Revenue	1,658.40
3352-0	Rooms & Meals Tax	13,763.94
3353-0	Highway Block Grant	8,809.73
3359-0	Other State Revenue	575.00
3401-0	Income from All Departments	74.55
3501-0	Sale of Municipal Property	1,400.00
3502-0	Bank Interest	615.63
3508	Donations	1,087.50
3915-0	Transfers from Capital Reserve	-
3916-0	Transfers from Trust Funds	<u>21,170.38</u>

Total Income \$1,091,608.80

#### Expense

4130-0	Executive	
4130100	Salaries - Selectmen, Moderator	7,500.00
4130150	Secretary Pay	729.00
4130200	Fees-NHMA Lectures	65.00
4130300	Outside Services - Tax Maps	2,153.00
4130600	Office Expenses	<u>3,389.60</u>

Total 4130-0 Executive 13,836.60

#### 4140-0 Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics

4140100	Salary - Town Clerk	6,000.00
4140150	Deputy Town Clerk	1,500.00
4140200	Fees - Town Clerk	276.50
4140500	Election & Voter Registration	4,621.20
4140600	Office & Miscellaneous	<u>571.19</u>

Total 4140-0 Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics 12,968.89

#### 4150 Financial Administration

4150100	Salaries - Tax Collector, Treasurer, Auditor	5,250.00
4150125	Financial Services	4,200.00
4150200	Fees & Miscellaneous	1,307.14
4150600	Office Expenses & Bank Charges	<u>2,757.76</u>

Total 4150	Financial Administration		13,514.90
4152-0	Revaluation of Individual Property		
4152100	Revaluation	4,800.00	
4152200	Reval Software	<u>1,262.00</u>	
Total 4152-0	Revaluation of Individual Property		6,062.00
4153-0	Legal Expenses		6,029.04
4155-22	Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes		2,008.96
4191-00	Planning & Zoning		3,149.66
4194-0	Government Buildings		
4194400	Utilities	7,476.40	
4194800	Repairs, Maintenance & Supplies	5,891.46	
4194900	Mowing, Gardening & Wreaths	<u>900.00</u>	
Total 4194-0	Government Buildings		14,267.86
4195-0	Cemetery		
4195900	Mowing & Maintenance	1,520.00	
4195-0	Cemetery - Other	<u>250.00</u>	
Total 4195-0	Cemetery		1,770.00
4196-0	Insurance		
4196100	Property Liability-NHMA	2,240.09	
4196200	Worker's Compensation-Primex	<u>613.17</u>	
Total 4196-0	Insurance		2,853.26
4197-0	Advertising & Regional Association		1,647.53
4199-0	Other General Government		200.00
4215-0	Ambulances		11,019.00
4220-0	Fire Department		
4220100	Salary - Fire Chief	2,300.00	
4220110	Firefighters Call Pay	4,834.32	
4220200	Training, Dues, Other	1,650.00	
4220400	Utilities	4,447.80	
4220600	Office & Miscellaneous	624.91	
4220630	Truck Inspection, Maintenance & Repair	4,321.17	
4220635	Truck Fuel	310.10	
4220700	Equipment & Small Tools	10,034.78	
4220800	Building Maintenance & Supply	<u>13,116.73</u>	
Total 4220-0	Fire Department		41,639.81
4241	Building Inspections		4,668.50
4290	Emergency Management – Forest Fire		
4290200	Training	<u>612.79</u>	

Total 4290	Emergency Management – Forest Fire	612.79
4299-0	Emergency Management – Communication	1,500.00
4312000	Highway Maintenance	
4312100	Highway Maintenance General	<u>48,863.21</u>
Total 4312000	Highway Maintenance	48,863.21
4324-0	Solid Waste	
4324100	Administration	1,000.00
4324200	Disposal	<u>20,501.32</u>
Total 4324-0	Solid Waste	21,501.32
4414-0	Animal & Pest Control	500.00
4415	Health Agencies & Hospitals	211.14
4449	Other Welfare	
4449100	Other Welfare & Donations	<u>450.00</u>
Total 4449	Other Welfare	450.00
4520	Parks and Recreation	
4520100	Administrative Fees	1,000.00
4520200	Tri-Town Recreation Program	<u>16,983.15</u>
Total 4520	Parks and Recreation	17,983.15
4550	Library	-
4589	Other Culture and Recreation	
4589900	Boys & Girls Club	1,000.00
4589	Other Culture & Recreation – Other	<u>500.00</u>
Total 4589	Other Culture and Recreation	1,500.00
4619	Other Conservation	400.00
4711	Construction Bond - Principal	8,254.40
4721	Construction Bond - Interest	2,448.16
4915	Transfers to Capital Reserve	41,217.00
4916	Transfers to Trust/Agency Funds	26,000.00
4931	County Taxes	126,272.00
4933100	Lafayette Regional School District	488,752.00
4933200	Profile School District	<u>177,372.00</u>
Total Expense		<u>\$1,099,473.18</u>
Net Ordinary Income		<u>(7,864.38)</u>
Net Income		\$ <u><u>(7,864.38)</u></u>

# **BALANCE SHEET**

**December 31, 2020**

## **ASSETS**

### **Current Assets**

#### **Checking/Savings**

1001	WGSB Checking Account	\$ 77,630.64
1002	WGSB Money Market Fund	21.66
1004	Easton ZBA Escrow Account	5.00
Total Checking/Savings		<u>77,657.30</u>

### **Other Current Assets**

1010.3	Cash on Hand	100.00
1030	Investments	148,182.30
1080100	Property Taxes - Current Year	349,464.58
1080200	Timber Yield Tax Receivable	3,213.43
1110	Tax Liens Receivable	36,325.85
Total Other Current Assets		<u>537,286.16</u>

Total Current Assets	614,943.46
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### **Other Assets**

1670	Tax Deeded Property	29,368.41
Total Other Assets		<u>29,368.41</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$644,311.87</u></u>
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## **LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

### **Liabilities**

#### **Current Liabilities**

#### **Other Current Liabilities**

2020.1	Accounts Payable at Year End	\$ 1,822.12
2023	Property Taxes POA/Overpayments	792.64
2025	Withholding Taxes	3,099.48
2028	Timber Yield Bond/Escrow	-
2075	Due to School Districts	333,365.00
3010	Tax Coll Cash Receipts	-
Total Other Current Liabilities		<u>339,079.24</u>

Total Current Liabilities	<u>339,079.24</u>
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Total Liabilities	339,079.24
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### **Equity**

2440	Nonspendable Fund Balance	29,368.41
2450	Restricted Fund Balance – Conservation	10,355.00
2460	Committed Fund Balance – Encumbrances	0.00
2530	Unassigned Fund Balance	273,373.60

Net Income	<u>(7,864.38)</u>
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Total Equity	<u>305,232.63</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITES & EQUITY	<u><u>\$644,311.87</u></u>
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**TOWN OF EASTON  
TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
MARCH 9, 2021**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified and warned of the Annual Town Election to be held at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Polls will open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Articles 1-2. **The Town's Annual Business Meeting/Deliberative Session, originally scheduled for March 9, 2021 at 7 PM, will be postponed to Saturday, June 19, 2021, at 4 PM for deliberation and voting on Articles 3-19.**

**ARTICLE 1. Elect All Officers**

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year, on the Official Ballot. (Ballot Vote)

**ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town is in favor of the adoption of the Amendment to the existing Easton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board:**

The proposed amendment would make changes regarding Telecommunications Facilities throughout the Zoning Ordinance as follows:

In ARTICLE 3 DEFINITIONS, the term “Abandoned”, “Tower,” and “Tower Height” and their definitions would be removed. “Conditional Use” and “Telecommunications Facility” would be added along with their definitions.

In ARTICLE 6 FUTURE USES, Telecommunications Facility would be removed from Section 602.2 Special Exceptions and a new Section 602.3 would be added requiring a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Board for Telecommunications Facilities.

In ARTICLE 7 AREA REGULATION, Telecommunications Facilities would be exempt from the 35-foot height limit in Section 705.

In ARTICLE 8 GENERAL REGULATIONS, the text of Section 809 Telecommunications Facilities would be replaced in its entirety to provide the procedures and requirements for obtaining a Conditional Use Permit for a Telecommunications Facility from the Planning Board, along with the necessary definitions and subsequent requirements such as bonding and inspections.

(The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article) (Ballot vote)

**ARTICLE 3. Town Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$243,085 for general Town operation as follows:

Executive	\$ 14,700.00
Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Stats	12,000.00
Financial Administration	15,000.00

Revaluation of Individual Properties	6,000.00
Legal Expenses	10,000.00
Personnel Administration & Payroll Taxes	2,000.00
Planning & Zoning	7,000.00
Government Buildings	13,700.00
Cemetery	2,100.00
Insurance	2,981.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	1,620.00
General Government – Contingency	2,500.00
Police Department	0.00
Ambulances	11,500.00
Fire Department	21,050.00
Building Inspections	1,500.00
Emergency Management – Forest Fire	151.00
Public Safety – Other (Including Communications)	1,500.00
Highways and Streets	55,000.00
Sanitation – Solid Waste	30,208.00
Animal & Pest Control	300.00
Welfare Assistance	2,000.00
Parks and Recreation	18,475.00
Library	0.00
Patriotic Purposes	100.00
Conservation Commission	1,200.00
Construction Bonds – Principal	8,500.00
Construction Bonds – Interest	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$243,085.00

#### **ARTICLE 4. Budget for Health Agencies & Hospitals**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,011 for Health Agencies & Hospitals as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services	\$ 500.00
North Country Home Health & Hospice	800.00
CASA	500.00
White Mountain Mental Health	<u>211.00</u>
Total Health Agencies & Hospitals	\$2,011.00

#### **ARTICLE 5. Budget for Other Welfare**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,700 for Other Welfare as follows: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

American Red Cross	\$ 100.00
Center for New Beginnings	250.00
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	200.00
Tri-County Community Action Program	<u>2,150.00</u>
Total Other Welfare	\$2,700.00



**ARTICLE 6. Budget for Other Culture & Recreation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Other Culture & Recreation: (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

North Country Boys & Girls Club	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total Other Culture & Recreation	\$1,000.00

**ARTICLE 7. Fee for Franconia Library**

To see if the Town will vote to accept a special discounted patron rate of \$10 per Easton resident at the Abbie Greenleaf Library in Franconia, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for payment to such library for this purpose; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 8. Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Equipment Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to add to the Easton Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund (established in March 1997); of this amount the entirety to come from the December 31, 2020 Unassigned Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 9. Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Easton Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to come from the December 31, 2020 Fund Balance. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 10. Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance and Repair of Government Buildings; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 11. Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to add to the Town Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 12. Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Town Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

### **ARTICLE 13. Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Forest Fire Reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

### **ARTICLE 14. Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to add to the Legal Fees Expendable Trust Fund; of this amount the entirety is to be raised from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2020. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

### **ARTICLE 15. Conservation Capital Reserve Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the Conservation Capital Reserve Trust Fund: of this amount \$500 to come from the December 31, 2020 Unassigned Fund Balance with the remaining balance of \$500 to be raised from general taxation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

### **ARTICLE 16. Communications District Planning Committee**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to participate in a communications district planning committee under RSA Chapter 53-G to study the potential formation of a communications district with one or more other towns in the region for the purpose of facilitating the provision of fiber optic internet service to residents and businesses that will be needed for future growth in the region. The planning committee would consist of at least two people appointed by the Select Board from each participating town. A future town meeting vote would be required to formally create a communications district or to enter into contracts with any supplier. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Warrant Article.) (Majority vote required.)

### **ARTICLE 17. PETITIONED – Resolution for Fair Redistricting**

By petition of 10 (or more) eligible voters of the Town of Easton to see if the Town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the Town of Easton to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Selectmen to Easton's state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote. (Majority vote required.)

### **ARTICLE 18. PETITIONED – Resolution endorsing the declaration of a climate emergency and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate**

WHEREAS, In April 2016 world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C;”

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by current average global warming of 1°C demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, 1.5°C of global warming could expose 500 million people to water poverty, 36 million people to food insecurity because of lower crop yields, and 4.5 billion people to heat waves;

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to even the dangerous 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy by 2030;

WHEREAS, climate change and the global industrialized economy's overshoot of ecological limits are driving the Sixth Mass Extinction of species, could devastate much of life on Earth for many millennia, and may pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and ecological emergencies and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve these crises;

WHEREAS, in July 2019, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, Representative Earl Blumenauer, and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced a concurrent Congressional resolution to declare a national climate emergency in the United States, calling for a "national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States at a massive scale to halt, reverse, mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency and to restore the climate for future generations;"

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a Climate Mobilization, an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II in order to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy; to rapidly and safely drawdown and remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere at emergency speed and until safe pre-industrial climate conditions are restored; and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate breakdown;

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include:

1. A rapid, just, managed phase-out of fossil fuels;
2. Ending greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy;
3. A widespread effort to safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere;
4. A full transition to a regenerative agriculture system; and
5. An end to the Sixth Mass Extinction through widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems;

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline and marginalized communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort and that they benefit first from a transition to a climate-safe economy;

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate and biosphere will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency;

WHEREAS, Easton, New Hampshire can act as a global leader through advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, Easton, New Hampshire declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Easton, New Hampshire joins a national-wide call for a regional, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort focused on rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, Easton, New Hampshire hereby supports H.Con.Res.52 and S.Con.Res.22, “Expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes,” as well as any legislation that would initiate a national emergency-speed mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, as described in the text of this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Easton calls on the State of New Hampshire, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, Easton shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to the Executive Council, Governor Sununu, Senator Shaheen and President Biden and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

<https://cleoinstitute.org/>

wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Climate-Emergency-Declaration.docx.pdf

(Majority vote required.)

**ARTICLE 19. To act upon any other business that may legally come before the Meeting**

To act upon any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**for the Year Ending December 31, 2020**

Bank Balance- January 1, 2020		\$ 250,760.99
Receipts:		
Tax Collector	\$953,534.79	
Town Clerk - Motor Vehicles, Fees, etc.	75,520.00	
From Federal & State Government	32,082.08	
From Capital Reserve Fund	21,170.38	
Bank Interest	615.63	
Other Sources	<u>8,685.92</u>	
Total 2020 Receipts		<u>1,091,608.80</u>
Total Available Receipts		\$1,342,369.79
Disbursements:		
Grafton County - County Taxes	\$126,272.00	
School Districts	666,124.00	
Selectmen Ordered Paid	<u>324,160.85</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$1,116,556.85</u>
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2020		\$ 225,812.94

## STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS 2020 TAX RATE CALCULATION

### Town Portion

Appropriations	\$317,543.00	
Less Revenues	(128,043.00)	
Less Balance Voted Surplus	(31,327.00)	
Less Fund Balance Used	(60,000.00)	
Add: War Service Credits	3,150.00	
Add: Overlay	4,457.00	
<b>Net Town Appropriation</b>	<u>                    </u>	<b>\$105,780.00</b>

### School Portion

Net Cooperative School Appropriations	666,124.00	
Less Locally Retained State Education Tax	(139,218.00)	
<b>Net Local School Portion</b>	<u>                    </u>	<b>526,906.00</b>

### State Education Tax

State Education Tax	139,218.00	
Less State Education Tax Not Retained	<u>                    </u>	
<b>Net State Education Tax</b>		<b>139,218.00</b>

### Approved County Tax Effort

	<u>126,272.00</u>	
<b>Approved County Tax Effort</b>		<b>126,272.00</b>

Total Property Taxes Assessed	<b>898,176.00</b>
-------------------------------	-------------------

Less War Service Credits	<u>(3,150.00)</u>
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<b>Total Property Tax Commitment</b>	<b><u><u>\$895,026.00</u></u></b>
--------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

2019 Tax Rate			2020 Tax Rate		
		%			%
Town	\$ 3.22	25	Town	\$ 1.40	12
County	2.04	16	County	1.66	14
School	5.51	42	School	6.94	58
State	<u>2.22</u>	<u>17</u>	State	<u>1.86</u>	<u>16</u>
	\$12.99/1000	100%		\$11.86/1000	100%

## 2020 SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION

### **Land Value Only**

Current Use	\$ 294,678.00
Residential Land	27,517,900.00
Commercial/Industrial Land	<u>286,700.00</u>

**Total of Taxable Land** **\$28,099,278.00**

Tax Exempt and Non Taxable Land (21,929,200.00)

### **Buildings Value Only**

Residential	46,149,698.00
Commercial/Industrial	458,300.00
Discretionary Preservation Easements	<u>2,802.00</u>

**Total of Taxable Buildings** **46,610,800.00**

Tax Exempt and Non-Taxable Buildings (337,900.00)

### **Utilities and Timber**

Utilities 1,211,400.00

**Valuation Before Exemption** **\$75,921,478.00**

### **Exemptions Applied**

Blind Exemption	0.00
Disabled Exemption	0.00

**Total Dollar Amount of Exemptions** **0.00**

**Net Valuation** **\$75,921,478.00**  
**Less Utilities** **(1,211,400.00)**

**Net Valuation Without Utilities** **\$74,710,078.00**

**Change in Net Valuation Over 2019 (\$63,293,327.00)** **\$11,416,751.00**

# TAX COLLECTOR – SUMMARY OF WARRANTS

Levies of 2020 – MS-61

## DEBITS

<u>Uncollected Taxes Beginning of Year</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Levy for Yr. of This Report</u>	<u>2019</u>
Property Taxes	3110	\$	\$266,648.47
Property Tax Credit Balance		(415.58)	
<u>Taxes Committed This Year</u>			
Property Taxes	3110	896,142.00	10,450.22
Yield Taxes	3185	12,022.56	
<u>Overpayment Refunds</u>			
Property Taxes	3110		
Interest and Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	3190	<u>283.88</u>	<u>3,090.15</u>
<u>TOTAL DEBITS</u>		\$908,233.19	\$283,795.26

## CREDITS

<u>Remitted To Treasurer</u>			
Property Taxes		\$547,216.81	\$252,380.68
Yield Taxes		9,169.35	
Interest (w/ Lien Conversion)		283.88	2,361.65
Penalties			728.50
Conversion to Lien (Principal Only)			27,605.21
<u>Abatements Made</u>			
Property Taxes		38.00	359.00
Current Levy Deeded			
<u>Uncollected Taxes - End Of Year</u>			
Property Taxes		349,464.58	360.22
Yield Taxes		2,853.21	
Property Tax Credit Balance		<u>(792.64)</u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>TOTAL CREDITS</u>		\$908,233.19	\$283,795.26



# SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS

## MS-61

### DEBITS

	Last Year's Levy	2019	2018	2017
Unredeemed Liens Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year		\$ 0.00	\$11,443.18	\$9,497.25
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year		29,716.42	0.00	0.00
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)		<u>229.40</u>	<u>64.46</u>	<u>287.88</u>
<b>Total Debits</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$29,945.82</b>	<b>\$11,507.64</b>	<b>\$9,785.13</b>

### CREDITS

Remitted To Treasurer:

Redemptions	\$8,333.12	\$ 693.12	\$ 0.00
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190	229.40	64.46	287.88
Abatements of Unredeemed Liens Liens Deeded to Municipality	2,236.37	3,068.39	0.00
Unredeemed Liens Balance #1110	<u>19,146.93</u>	<u>7,681.67</u>	<u>9,497.25</u>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$29,945.82</b>	<b>\$ 11,507.64</b>
			<b>\$9,785.13</b>

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**  
**For the Year Ending December 31, 2020**

Motor Vehicle Registrations & Titles	\$76,451.00
Dog Registrations	364.00
Penalties	0.00
Copies	25.80
Marriage License & Certified Copies	145.00
Miscellaneous	<u>135.47</u>
Transferred to Town	\$77,121.27

**VITAL RECORDS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
**For the Year Ending December 31, 2020**

**BIRTHS**

<b>Date &amp; Place Of Birth</b>	<b>Name Of Child</b>	<b>Name Of Father &amp; Mother's Name</b>
February 29, 2020	Eleanor Lorraine Bogdziewicz	David Bogdziewicz Megan Bogdziewicz

**MARRIAGES**

<b>Date &amp; Place Of Marriage</b>	<b>Name and Surname Of Groom &amp; Bride</b>	<b>Residence of Each At Time Of Marriage</b>
March 7, 2020	Edward L. O'Brien	Easton, NH
Littleton, NH	Denys L. Draper	Easton, NH
September 26, 2020	Kyle M. Whitcomb	Easton, NH
Easton, NH	Brooke M. Smart	N. Woodstock, NH

**DEATHS**

<b>Date &amp; Place Of Death</b>	<b>Name of Deceased</b>
June 3, 2020 Franconia, NH	William John German
December 24, 2020 North Conway, NH	George Thomas Papageorge

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy King - Town Clerk

## **SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY**

**December 31, 2020**

Assessed Values:	
Land - Town Hall and Fire Station	\$ 90,500.00
Land - Cemetery	74,800.00
Land - Other	73,500.00
Building - Town Hall	301,500.00
Building - Fire Station	36,400.00
Estimated Values:	
Furniture and Equipment - Town Hall	24,000.00
Furniture and Equipment - Fire Station	<u>269,000.00</u>
Total Town Property	\$869,700.00

## **SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT**

**December 31, 2020**

### **Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank Refinanced Town Hall Addition from 2001**

	<u>Principal</u>
Original Amount	\$70,315.00
Balance December 31, 2019	34,176.00
Payments in 2020	<u>3,445.00</u>
Balance December 31, 2020	<u><u>\$30,731.00</u></u>

### **Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank Ashton Property from 2017**

	<u>Principal</u>
Original Amount	\$60,427.00
Balance December 31, 2019	49,021.00
Payments in 2020	<u>4,810.00</u>
Balance December 31, 2020	<u><u>\$44,211.00</u></u>

# Town of Easton Report of Trust Funds

## December 31, 2020

Account	Type of Fund	Beginning Balance 2020	Additions		Withdrawals	Ending Balance 2020
			*Deposits	Interest		
Cemetery Maintenance	ETF	\$10,765.14	\$1,000.00	\$16.28	\$0.00	\$11,781.42
Cemetery Perpetual Care Maintenance	TRUST	\$13,166.19	\$0.00	\$19.81	\$0.00	\$13,186.00
Conservation	CRF	\$3,007.33	\$9,890.00	\$15.40	\$0.00	\$12,912.73
**Emergency Lane Repair	ETF	\$6,960.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,960.44	\$0.00
Easton Fire Department Equipment	ETF	\$47,106.72	\$5,000.00	\$71.26	\$0.00	\$52,177.98
Easton Fire Department Vehicle and Apparatus	CRF	\$55,839.89	\$10,000.00	\$59.34	\$0.00	\$65,899.23
Forest Fire	ETF	\$19,042.48	\$5,000.00	\$19.36	\$0.00	\$24,061.84
**Legal Funds Northern Pass	ETF	\$14,201.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,201.01	\$0.00
Legal Funds Regular	ETF	\$51,989.26	\$15,000.00	\$95.14	\$0.00	\$67,084.40
Town Building Repairs	ETF	\$65,464.80	\$5,000.00	\$98.90	\$0.00	\$70,563.70
Town Roads Maintenance	ETF	\$96,574.58	\$5,000.00	\$199.37	\$0.00	\$101,773.95
Transfer Station	CRF	\$8,899.20	\$11,327.00	\$25.02	\$0.00	\$20,251.22
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$393,017.04</b>	<b>\$67,217.00</b>	<b>\$619.88</b>	<b>\$21,161.45</b>	<b>\$439,692.47</b>

\* Deposits are the amount appropriated at the 2020 Town Meeting.

\*\*\* The Town voted to discontinue this fund at 2020 Town Meeting with funds going into the General Fund.

TRUST = Trust Fund

ETF = Expendable Trust Fund

CRF = Capital Reserve Fund

All funds must receive written application from Select Board and/or Trustees before any money is released from the fund, regardless of who has discretion over actual spending.

## **EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Despite the challenges that we face with the COVID-19 pandemic, the members of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department stand ready to serve the residents of Easton and the surrounding communities.

Although we did not have the opportunity to meet in person as often as we would have liked, the focus this year has been on training. We have been training on our newly acquired Engine 2 which is now fully in service. We have conducted numerous joint training sessions with members of the Sugar Hill and Franconia Fire Departments and we plan on doing more in the future. We have also conducted training at the Ray Burton Fire Academy in Bethlehem, and we met with Deborah Pendergast, the Director of the NH Fire Academy.

Easton Fire Department responded to a total of 7 calls in 2020. These calls are broken down as follows:

Motor Vehicle Accidents	(2)
Fire Alarm Activations	(1)
Trees on Power Lines	(1)
Ambulance Assist	(2)
Non Permit Burns	(1)

We continue to make improvements to the Easton Firehouse to include the paving of the driveway and parking area around the building which was way over due. We are also in the process of installing firefighter equipment storage lockers that are an essential feature in any modern day firehouse. The Department continues to pursue any state or federal grants to assist in the purchase of firefighter turn-out gear and air pack cylinders that have become obsolete and will need to be replaced.

Members of the Easton Fire Department are actively working to conduct as many training exercises as possible. Upcoming training includes; Water flow exercises, Vehicle extrication, Forestry, Smoke drills, Equipment and Gear practice, and Maintenance. The members will be participating in a regional training school in early May, 2021.

We are happy to report that the Easton Fire Department added three new members this year, but we are always looking for additional members. Come check us out first and third Wednesday of the month at 6 pm or call Chief Darrel Gearhart 823-7152 or Deputy Chief David Santolucito 991-0988.

All of the Firefighters of Easton Fire Department would like to express our appreciation for all of your support and we thank you for allowing us to serve our awesome community. We stand ready to respond when called to action.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Easton Volunteer Firefighters  
Darrel Gearhart, Chief

## **PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board was very busy in 2020. Last March 2020, residents approved four ballot questions that amended the Zoning Ordinance with wording aimed at clarifying them or making their compliance more practical. The Board, during the spring and summer, following a Public Hearing, updated our Subdivision Regulations, Subdivision Application and Check List to make them more succinct and efficient for the applicant and Town. In the fall of 2020 and early 2021 we have focused on the Zoning Ordinance Section 809 Telecommunications Facilities, and affected Sections, and will have amendments on the ballot for all residents to vote on for Town Meeting in March 2021.

In 2021 the Planning Board will continue with its on-going review of the Town's Zoning Ordinances to make sure they are complete, orderly, reflect the vision of the Master Plan, and stay in step with the State's ever changing RSAs. The Board has again contracted with professional planner Tara Bamford for 2021 to help us in this endeavor.

The Planning Board holds its monthly meeting the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM, unless otherwise posted. We invite Easton Town residents to attend our meetings.

Respectfully Submitted for the Easton Planning Board,

Ned Cutler, Chair

## **EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Mission Statement:** The Easton Conservation Commission (ECC) was established for the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of the Town of Easton, New Hampshire.

The activities of the ECC have been limited over the past year due to the Covid 19 pandemic and a lack of quorum for some meetings. We look forward to moving ahead with educational community events and activities focused on natural resource conservation in the future. We have completed a number of site reviews for building and other permits this year. We are also planning for additional training for ECC members. Plans are underway to move forward with our Chestnut Tree Project and expect two new trees and most likely another community education event with Doug McLane on new developments in the Chestnut Restoration Project.

The ECC is actively seeking additional members to fill vacancies and continue our work. The Town of Easton has many precious natural resources and a significant watershed. If you have an interest in the ECC please contact us through our mail box at the Town Hall.

Wetlands are a valuable natural resource protected by the Town of Easton and the State of New Hampshire, as well as the US Federal Government. In all wetland's jurisdictions, the more restrictive regulations apply.

It is the responsibility of each Easton landowner to know that the permitted uses of wetlands are limited and that no structures can be erected or constructed on wetlands.

The Grafton County Soil Survey and Easton Natural Resources Maps are available at the Easton Town Hall for identifying the potential presence of wetlands. Wetlands/upland boundaries can be delineated by a certified soils scientist.

The Easton Zoning Ordinances are located on the Town of Easton NH website under the Easton Planning Board link. Easton Zoning Ordinances, Section 604 Wetlands Conservation Overlay District and Section 605 Groundwater Protection District are noteworthy.

For specific wetlands uses, NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) permits, as well as zoning variances, are required.

Thank you for your support of the ECC and welcome to new members of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Inga Johnson, Chairperson  
Easton Conservation Commission

## FRANCONIA LIFE SQUAD/AMBULANCE

The Ambulance Service continues to seek its membership from the surrounding area by recruiting from the towns of Franconia, Sugar Hill and Easton, the same communities it provides service to. Anyone willing to volunteer is welcome to apply for membership. Each member is dedicated to providing the highest quality emergency care to the communities we serve.

The Franconia Ambulance currently has seven (7) members who are certified to provide Advanced Life Support, four (4) of whom are nationally registered paramedics. The Franconia Ambulance at year's end has thirteen (13) active members; a membership well prepared to assist our citizens and visitors to our area with quality emergency medical care.

All members are Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technicians. They are continually training and improving their skills. Each member must have a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education each year for a total of 40 hours after two years, at which time they must reapply for their national certification and state license.

Many of the members have other specialized training including ice rescue, swift water rescue, high angle rescue and motor vehicle extrication certifications. All of our members are certified in advanced CPR and in the use of the heart monitor and defibrillator. Most importantly, all of our members are dedicated to providing compassionate emergency medical care from the scene to the hospital.

The current list of active members of the Franconia Ambulance are:

Chief Paul Schmucker - EMT  
Asst. Chief Mark Taylor - EMT  
William Mead - Paramedic  
Bill McCarthy - AEMT  
Jeffrey Collins - AEMT  
Evelyn Collins - Paramedic  
Stephen Schmucker - EMT

Capt. Pam Oakman - Paramedic  
Allan Clark - EMT  
Ned Wilson - EMT  
Nate Hanson - Paramedic  
Patrick Griffin - EMT  
Colleen Steele - AEMT

The Franconia Ambulance responded to 280 calls for assistance during 2020, of those 147 required transport.

In 2020, total operating expenses for the Franconia Ambulance were \$87,233.15. Income obtained from patient billing and subsidies from Sugar Hill and Easton totaled \$126,846.05, providing a return of \$39,612.90 to the Town of Franconia.

Your Ambulance is currently operating at the Advanced Life Support - paramedic level.

I sincerely thank the townspeople for their continued support and the privilege of serving them. And I especially thank the men and women of the Franconia Ambulance for their countless hours of dedication and sacrifice, serving others in their community in their time of need.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chief Paul Schmucker  
Franconia Life Squad



## **TRI TOWN TRANSFER STATION**

The beginning of the year was tumultuous due to the pandemic. For a short time, we were unable to accept recycled materials but did our best to rectify the situation as soon as possible. The pandemic posed other challenges as well: slowed traffic, PPE requirements and less contact with the residents we serve. We would like to thank everyone for their patience with the lines, traffic, and wearing your masks this year. We also welcomed a new full-time employee this year, Alyssa Murphy, and are grateful to have her on board.

Respectfully,

Tim Blake - Supervisor  
Kevin Dauphine  
Alyssa Murphy

## LAFAYETTE RECREATION

Like everyone else, the Lafayette Recreation Department faced several curveballs in 2020. Our normally full slate of annual events and fundraisers was largely postponed until 2021, although throughout the warmer months we were able to host some safe and socially distanced events at the Dow. Likewise, our youth programs looked different in 2020.

The pandemic hit just as we were planning spring events and youth baseball season. Although spring events and sports were a wash, summer was a successful season! Under the leadership of Recreation Director Kim Cowles and Summer Program Director Gillian Cahill, we were able to offer two Summer Rec sessions, with 32 children from our towns participating in the first, and 40 children participating in the second. Thanks to partnerships with Copper Cannon Camp and Tamarack Tennis Camp (both closed for the year), along with the Dow and other local outdoor venues, our Summer Rec kids had a fun, safe, and engaging season.

One new favorite activity last summer was paddling around Coffin Pond, close enough to Town that the kids could bike there. Canoeing was such a big hit that the Department has added six canoes – all donated – to its fleet. Because we had to cap Summer Rec enrollment for safety reasons, we applied for and received a Cares Act Grant of \$18,000 which helped to offset the decrease in revenue.

Although we cancelled the Top Notch Triathlon and other fundraising events in 2020, the Dow was hopping with activity, from disc golf players on the course to the North Country Chamber Players making music in the pavilion. We also hosted movie nights and an evening of dancing to the Wicked Smart Horn Band. We're all looking forward to returning to our familiar slate of activities in 2021!

During the fall we were able to offer a soccer season for children from kindergarten through sixth grade. Although we didn't compete against teams from other towns, our Lafayette kids worked on their skills and had a chance to play together throughout the fall.

Trunk or Treat was a huge hit! So much so, we will add it to our normal Halloween celebration every year. Thank you to the Safety Service peeps and everyone else who participated.

Just before Christmas, Santa rode through Town on a fire engine, waving to kids along the way. Since then, the weather has proved tricky for maintaining the ice at the rink, but we continue to make ice whenever the weather allows, and skating continues to be a popular activity. We're also looking ahead to planning for a warming hut at the rink, which would be part of the welcome center and public restrooms in Town.

As a Department, we continue our efforts to enhance the recreational opportunities for residents of various ages and interests and strive to enhance the positive relationships formed with other community groups. The Lafayette Recreation Committee meets the first Thursday of each month – remotely, for now – and residents are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Lafayette Committee Members

**Franconia:** Adam Boyer, Meghan McPhaul, and Cindy Berlack

**Sugar Hill:** Launa Glover and Nicole McKay

**Easton:** Michael McKeever and Kent Butterfield

**Lafayette Regional School:** Gordie Johnk

**Recreation Director:** Kim Cowles

## **ABBIE GREENLEAF LIBRARY**

What to say about 2020 – unbelievable, unprecedented, frightening, challenging, historic. In addition to the political tumult and social upheaval, the pandemic posed unprecedented challenges for the Library. Throughout, the Library remained open, if not always physically, then via the internet. Ultimately, and with invaluable support and advice from the NH State Library, Abbie Greenleaf Library was able to regroup and safely provide services that met the needs of our patrons.

### **BUILDING**

After five years of attempting to retrofit an early 20<sup>th</sup> century building to accommodate a state of the art pellet furnace, we stopped swimming against the current. The pellet furnace was replaced by an economical propane boiler system. An air circulator was added to the system in April, making the building a much healthier small space.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

The “digital” proved to be our saving grace during the spring when the pandemic was little understood and the Library was closed to the public. During this period we resorted to the internet in order to connect patrons of all ages to activities and sites that provided comfort, entertainment and educational opportunities.

### **GRANTS**

In late 2019 the Library received a grant from the Children’s Literacy Foundation in the form of over \$2,000 in new children’s books and a presentation by two guest storytellers. Because of COVID restrictions CLiF was not able to send the storytellers to the Library in 2020. Instead, the CLiF books were distributed throughout 2020 to children in the community.

### **THE LIBRARY COLLECTION**

Because our programming was curtailed more emphasis was placed on developing the collection and more than 400 volumes were added. Emphasis was placed on developing our nonfiction collection with a focus on materials exploring issues of race and racism in response to the cultural upheaval and Black Lives Matter movement. In addition, we added nonfiction volumes to the children’s collection in order to provide a better resource for families who are home schooling.

### **LIBRARY OPENING AND CLOSING, PROGRAMMING AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

2020 programming began on a very promising note with the ever-popular Chair Yoga and Intentional Stitching being offered weekly. Abbie Book group kicked off the new year with a discussion of *Lost Children Archive* by Valeria Luiselli. In February, a performance of the Modern Times Puppet Theater attracted a capacity audience who delighted in the antics of Punch and Judy. However, by March, as the number of cases of COVID began to mount, programming in a tight and airless space became an impossibility.

Following the advice of the NH State Library, Abbie Greenleaf closed to visitors from March 16 – May. At the same time the State interlibrary loan system was shut down and

remained so until September. During this closure we developed best practices for interacting with the community during a pandemic that included adopting a mask policy, rules and regulations for sanitizing hands, surfaces, materials and the building. We also enhanced our knowledge of internet resources and shared with patrons programming, recipes, music, a photo gallery and new booklists, and electronic reading material. In June, the Library opened for walk up service with new policies in place to insure the health of the employees and patrons. In September, we were able to completely reopen but, by Thanksgiving, due to another wave of the virus, the Library reverted to walk up service again.

One of the high notes of the year came during the summer when we were able to squeeze in a few masked, socially distanced events. These outdoor events for children included a wildly fun, interactive musical performance by Mr. Aaron, a Squam Lake Science Center live animal presentation, and a performance by members of the North Country Chamber Players.

Regular programming was reduced to outdoor Story Time for kids and outdoor meetings of the Abbie Book Group where we discussed the *Loving vs Virginia* by Patricia Powell and the *Vanishing Half* by Brett Bennet. As the weather turned colder, Story Time was suspended and the Abbie Book Group met via Zoom to discuss *Vesper Flights* by Helen MacDonald.

Finally, through the efforts of the Franconia Art Walk, the Library was again host to a colorful, abstract sculpture by artist Douglas R. Rice.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

The Library would not have prevailed this year without the tremendous support and flexibility of the hard working Library staff - Joanne Carey, Priscilla Hindley, Loriann Jesseman, Natalie Kerkis, the Friends of the Library, the Board of Trustees, and the Town employees including Kim Cowles and Cory Rush.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the community for being understanding, patient, and compassionate and for maintaining a sense of humor, during a trying time.

Respectfully reported by,  
Ann Steuernagel  
Library Director  
1/14/21

## ABBIE GREENLEAF LIBRARY 2020 STATISTICS

Books with the highest circulation in 2020:

Fiction - *Dutch House* by Ann Patchett

Mystery - *A Better Man* by Louise Penny

Non-fiction - *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larsson

Bio - *Too Much and Never Enough* by Mary Trump

Junior - *Dog Man: Fetch 22* by Pilkey

Early Reader - *Baby Monkey, Private Eye* by Brian Selznick

### MATERIALS CIRCULATED

Adult Fiction	1,897
Adult Non-Fiction	768
Easy Readers	720
Juvenile	617
Young Adult	58
Audio Books	74
DVD's	233
Magazines	483
Objects	
(toys, puzzles, telescope, CDs)	214
Computer Usage	207
Inter-Library Loans	214
Digital Material Downloaded	
eBooks	1055
eAudio	1433
eMag	63

**TOTAL 8,036**

The above figure includes 173 books loaned to NH libraries via Inter-Library Loan.

In 2020, 45 new patrons joined the Library. There are approximately 1,000 individual library cardholders with close to 300 patrons using their cards regularly.

**Total Accessions 409**

Materials Accessioned

Books	400
DVDs	9
BCDs	0

**Total Withdrawn 246**

### Subscriptions

Periodicals purchased	28
Newspapers purchased	3

In addition, the Library subscribed to two genealogy databases, Explora and OverDrive (an eBook/eAudio database).

**TOTAL VOLUMES 10,521** (10,121 in catalog + approx. 400 not cataloged)

## **KINSMAN CEMETERY**

Our grounds keeper, Jeff Collins, continues to do an outstanding job keeping our cemetery well-groomed and attractive. This past spring due to the COVID-19 protocols, we unfortunately had a miscommunication concerning our Veterans Memorial Day Service, which did take place but without residents in attendance. Despite the challenges of the virus, we did have several services this past summer. Currently we have a few headstones that need repair, and they will be taken care of weather permitting. The Committee is hoping to get an updated more accurate map developed for the Cemetery plots based on a professional survey. A memorial for the Veterans is still in the planning stage.

Richard Larcom  
For the Cemetery Trustees

# **TOWN OF EASTON**

## **FEES**

**(As of January 2021 - Subject to Change)**

### **Building Permit Fee**

**New Residence, Garage, Shed, Barn, Renovations, Solar Permit – Fees Vary  
See Building Permit (online) – [www.townofeastonnh.org](http://www.townofeastonnh.org)**

### **9-1-1 Building Numbering**

**\$30.00**

### **Current Use Application**

**\$20.00**

### **Driveway Permit for Town Roads**

**\$20.00**

### **Reappraisal Charges**

**\$45.00**

### **Major and Minor Subdivision Application Fee**

**Major or Minor Lot Line Adjustments and/or Boundary Agreement**

### **Conditional Use Permit Application Fee**

**\$100.00**

**Plus \$10.00 per Abutter  
Plus, All Required Public Notice Costs  
This Covers All Filing Fees**

### **Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances**

**Available on the Town of Easton Website**

**[www.townofeastonnh.org](http://www.townofeastonnh.org)**

**Planning Board Link**

**Paper Copies for Review Available at Town Hall**

### **Copies**

**Taxpayers - \$0.10 per page  
Non-Taxpayers - \$0.25 per page  
Non-Resident Tax Card - \$2.00**

### **Faxes**

**\$1.00 per page**

***Clerical Time to Meet Miscellaneous Information Requests  
\$25.00 per Hour, Payable Prior to the Release of Information***



# **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

## **Police – Fire – Medical Emergency**

**9-1-1**

## **New Hampshire State Police – Troop F**

**846-3333**

### **Fire Chief**

**Darrel Gearhart – 823-7152**

### **Deputy Fire Chief**

**David Santolucito – 991-0988**

### **Fire Warden**

**Ned Cutler – 823-5050**

## **Emergency Management Director**

**Ned Cutler – 823-5050**

### **Town Clerk**

**Town Hall Telephone – 823-8017**

**Town Hall Fax – 823-7780**

### **Hours**

**Tuesday and Thursday: 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
and by Appointment**

### **Tax Collector**

**Hours Vary – Please call 823-8017**

**A license for all dogs is required by May 1, 2021**

**A current rabies certificate is required, in Easton,  
in order to license a dog**

## **IN MEMORIAM**

**Our thanks for service to  
the Town of Easton.  
Friends and colleagues pass on,  
but their memories live in our hearts.**

### **Barbara Collier**

**1934-2021**

**Treasurer – 2 yrs.**

**ZBA – 2 yrs.**

**Town Clerk – 17 yrs.**

**Tax Collector – 9 yrs.**

**Select Board Secretary – 14 yrs.**

**Library Trustee – 6 yrs.**

### **Jim Collier**

**1932-2021**

**Town Moderator- 23 yrs.**

**Planning Board – 24 yrs.**

**Conservation Commission – 4 yrs.**

### **Bill German**

**1941-2020**

**Tax Collector – 1 yr.**

## Select Board Meetings for 2021

### JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	*6	*7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	*3	*4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

### MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	*3	*4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				*1	2	3
4	5	6	*7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	*5	*6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	*2	*3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				*1	2	3
4	5	6	*7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	*4	*5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			*1	*2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	*6	*7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	*3	*4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			*1	*2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**Select Board Meetings** – 6:00 p.m. every other Monday evening, except June and September.  
The first Select Board meeting of 2021 is scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2021.

**\*Planning Board Meetings** – 6:00 p.m. first Thursday of each month.

**Conservation Commission** – 5:30 p.m. first Wednesday of each month.

Department Head Meetings with the Select Board – by request.

Town of Easton  
1060 Easton Valley Road  
Easton, NH 03580